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BY ROB HAVENS '88

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On the Cover: Trevor Knight is poised to take the reins of this A&M team. Photo by Rob Havens '88.



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- FORMER AGGIE BASEBALL PITCHER,
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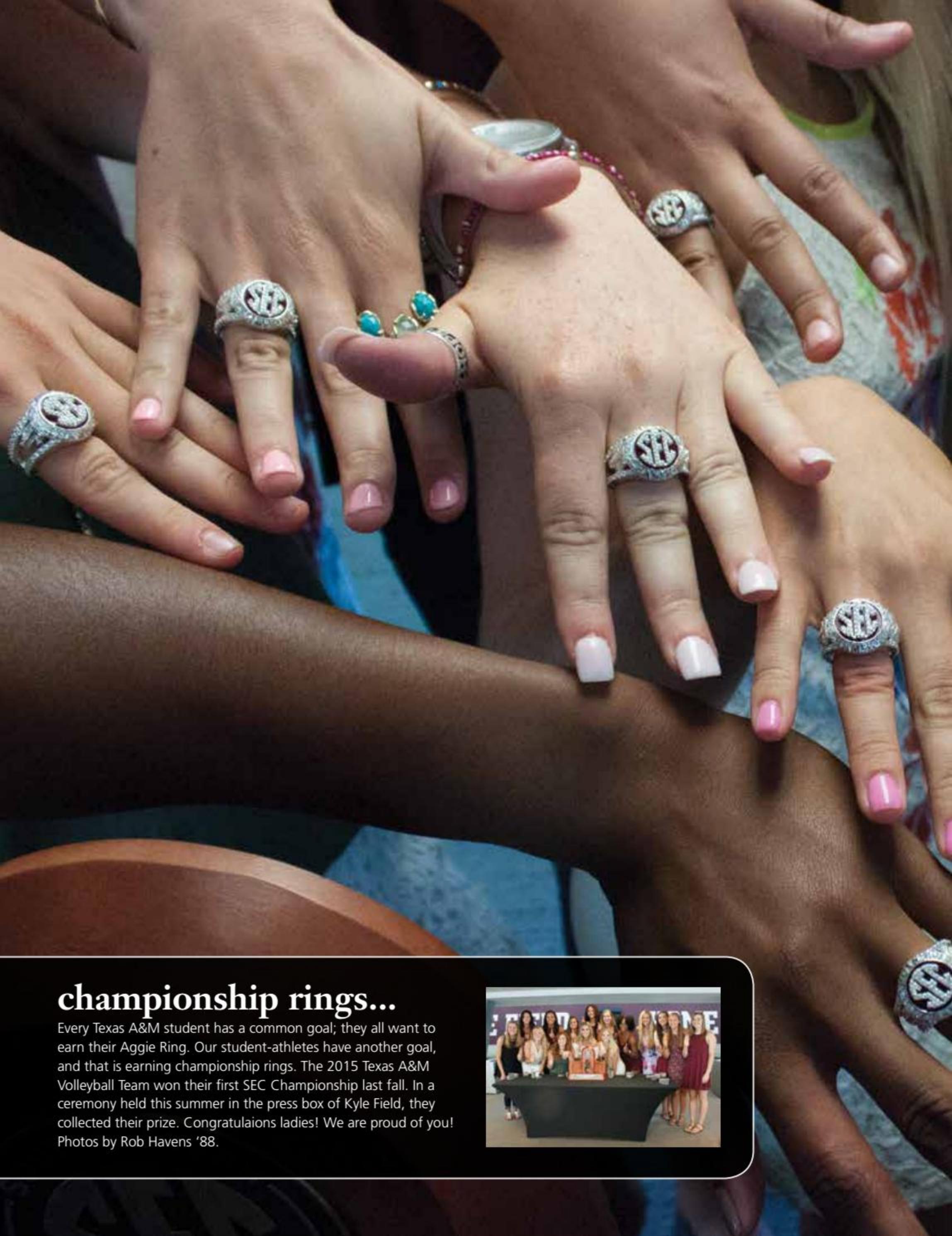


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Photos by Rob Havens '88.





clear eyes, full hearts, can't lose...

James White is finally healthy this fall and ready to show people what he can do in the running game. Noel Mazzone's offense likes to spread teams out and then attack with the running game. White says he feels better than ever and is ready to be a workhorse for this team. The Aggies have a stable of talented backs but James is ready to take the lead.

Photo by Rob Havens '88.







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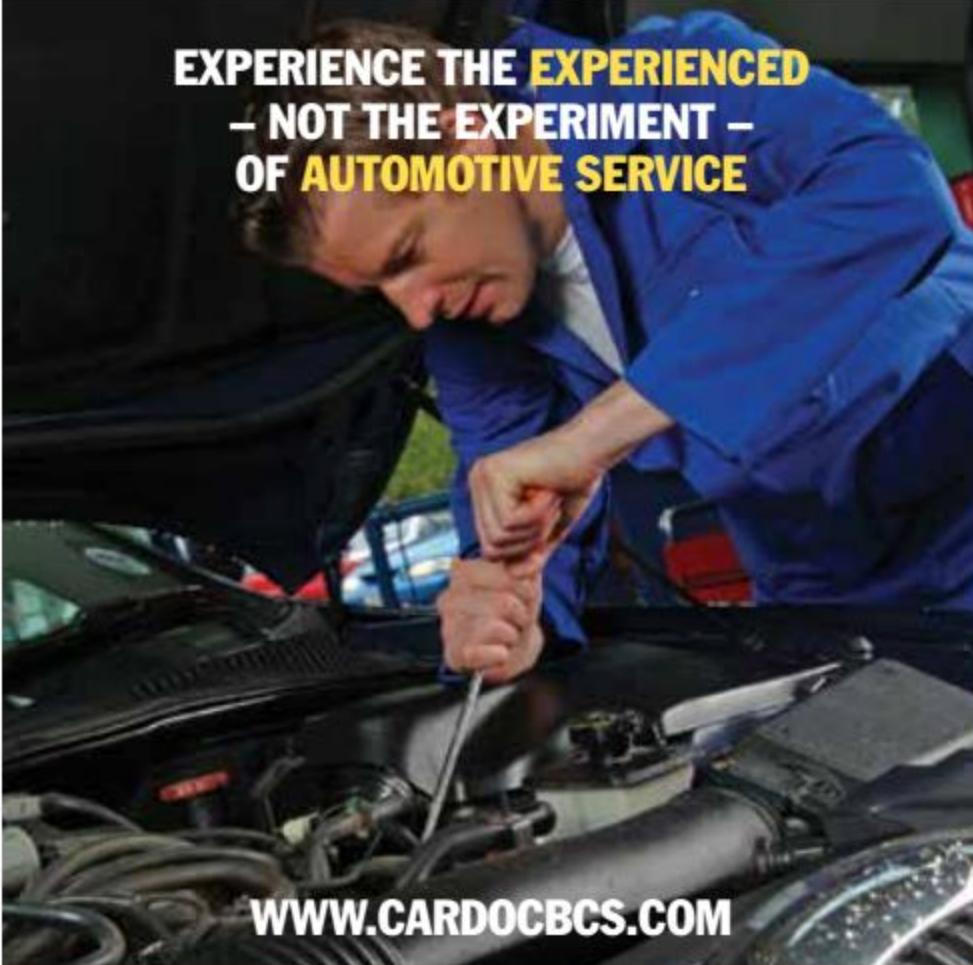
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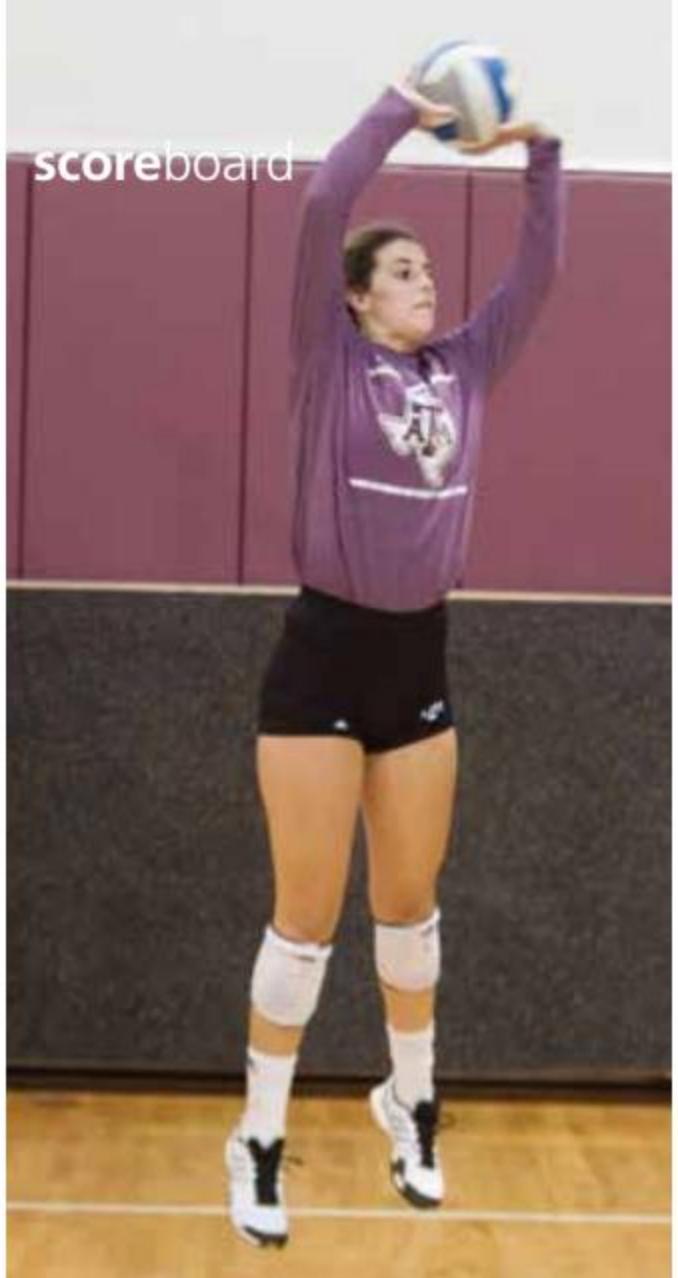
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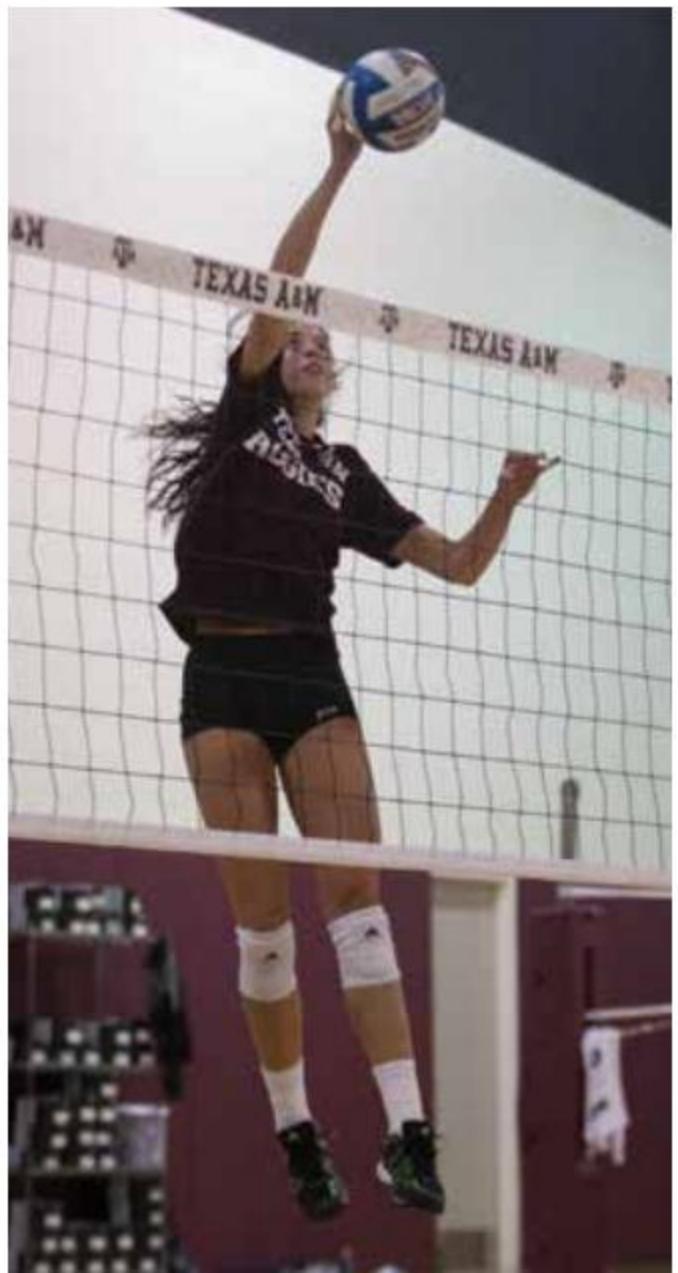
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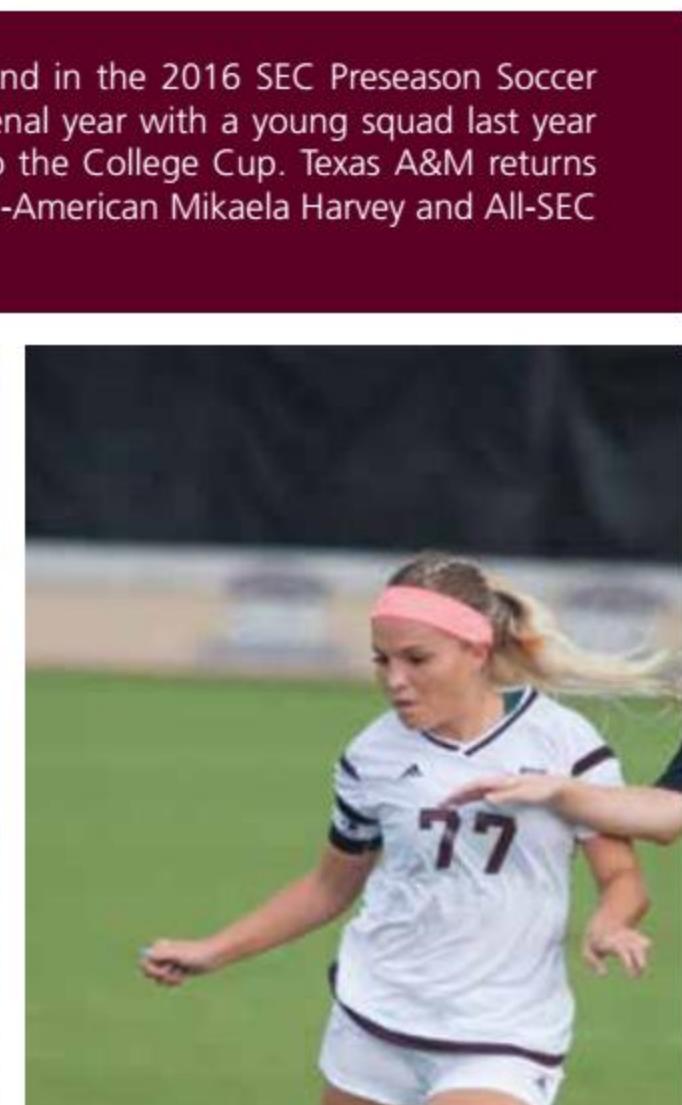
scoreboard



[volleyball] The 2016 Preseason Coaches' Poll was released on August 17th and the Aggies are picked to repeat as Southeastern Conference champs. The reigning SEC Player of the Year Stephanie Aiple and second team All-American Jazzmin Babers were also voted to the Volleyball Preseason All-SEC Team. Laurie Corbelli returns five starters and the libero, as well as 14 letter winners overall from last years squad.



scoreboard



scoreboard



scoreboard





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2016

Football season is quickly approaching and a talented, experienced group of Aggies are ready to wake some people up. At Media Day Ricky Seals-Jones said, "I think a lot of people are sleeping on us... Once the season gets going we will shake some heads and have some people looking our way." That seems to be the consensus inside the locker room that the experts, who aren't expecting much out of this team, are going to be surprised.

Texas A&M had a tremendous off-season. Noel Mazzone joined Coach Sumlin's staff and immediately went to work as the new offensive coordinator. He started recruiting some of the best players in the country and began to install his new offense. The Aggies also acquired the services of veteran defensive tackles coach, David Turner who brings a great hands-on approach to the coaching position. The Aggies also brought back Jim Turner as offensive line coach. He is one of the best in the business. You could tell from his first practice what an asset he is when it comes to teaching the correct techniques and schemes that produce NFL caliber linemen.

What may go down as the biggest pick up in the off-season was the acquisition of graduate transfer Trevor Knight. The talented quarterback from San Antonio finished his four-year stint at Oklahoma and joined the Aggies in January. From the very first spring practice you could tell that the guy, who would be named QB1 just a few months later, was a special player. He was the first one on the field. He was giving everyone high fives and pumping everyone up. He brought an infectious smile and a fresh attitude to the game along with a maturity that the program hasn't had in a few years. Knight was always the first to volunteer for every drill. He raced down the field after each drill, leading by example, as well as being a vocal leader. Over the past eight months he has made this team his own by being the best and expecting the same from his teammates, and he is fired up to run out on Kyle Field for his first game.

Texas A&M receiving corps is one of the best in the country. They possess NFL caliber talent and are one of the deepest groups on the team. Christian Kirk, Ricky Seals-Jones, Josh Reynolds and Speedy Noil present challenges for any team's defensive backs. You simply can't double cover one of them or you will get burned by someone else. If you try to play single coverage they all have the ability to beat you. Wide receivers coach Aaron Moorehead also mentioned Damion Ratley and Edward Pope as players to watch for this fall.

The running back stable is stocked with talent. James White

FOOTBALL PREVIEW

BY ROB HAVENS '88

who was hampered by injuries last year said he feels "200% better than last year!" He is ready to be a workhorse for this team. Oklahoma transfer Keith Ford is also looking for a new start at A&M and has the speed and quickness to be a difference maker out of the backfield. Also turning heads this fall camp is freshmen Trayveon Williams who looks like he is ready to get some early playing time.

The success of our offense will likely come down to the five guys upfront. With only Avery Gennesy coming back from last years squad, under the tutelage of Coach Turner, this group will have to learn quick how to work as a unit. Erik McCoy will take over at center and the other spots on the line look to be filled by Jermaine Eluemunor, Colton Prater, Connor Lanfear or Keaton Sutherland. With two weeks to go there are still other linemen fighting for playing time and Turner and Sumlin are still trying to find the best five guys.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Aggies have what could be the best defensive end tandem in college football in Myles Garrett and Daeshon Hall. The bookends have speed, strength and an ability to fly to the quarterback. Chavis hopes the dynamic duo can be as impressive in stopping the run games as they are in stopping the pass. Qualen Cunningham and James Lockhart have also had impressive camps and should rotate in when needed.

The defensive line will be bigger and better this year with the exception of Daylon Mack who has trimmed down since arriving on campus and at 313 looks to be faster and have more endurance. Zaycoven Henderson drew rave reviews

from Chavis as one of the most improved since last season. Kingsley Keke and Hardreck Walker should see a lot of playing time as well. TD Moton became an Aggie after two years of going through the Clearing House and under the direction of David Turner, is working hard to learn the defensive scheme.

The Aggies welcome back Otar Alaka to the linebacker corps after missing all of last season. Shaan Washington, Richard Moore and Claude George should all see meaningful playing time this fall. Riley Garner has worked at linebacker and defensive end after returning from a knee injury last fall. With Coach Chavis' desire to keep Donavan Wilson on the field as much as possible, look for the Ags to run a 4-2-5 package quite a bit this season.

The defensive back squad is definitely one of the strengths of this team. Wilson's name keeps coming up, as the talented nickel back is just too good to keep on the sideline. Armani Watts and Justin Evans are good enough to play at the next level and the two work well as a duo on the field. Justin Dunning suffered an ACL tear during fall camp and will miss this season. Nick Harvey and Priest Willis should be lock-down corners for the Aggies. Alex Sezer Jr. has had a great fall camp as well and should see playing time. Roney Elam and Deshawn Capers-Smith give the Aggies depth at the position as well and are working hard to be playmakers.

The Ags lost NFL special teams specialist Drew Kaser and Taylor Bertolet from last season. Shane Tripucka, who has been with the team for three years, is ready to take over the punting duties. Dropping bombs regularly in practice, he punts the ball high and deep and is

able to put it right where he wants it to go. Daniel LaCamera will take over the kicking duties. The sophomore saw limited action last year but has a strong leg and is ready to compete on the big stage. Christian Kirk and Speedy Noil give the Aggies a chance to score on every return and are veteran players who should light up the highlight reel again this year.

The team is loaded with talent and coaching, if they can stay healthy, they should do really well this year. They face a gauntlet of a schedule but, with a second year under Coach Chavis direction, the defense should be much improved. Mazzone's fast paced offense should be fun to watch and with all the talent at wide receiver the Ags have the ability to make big plays. If experts are sleeping on the Aggies we have the players to wake them up!



2015-2016 RECORD

Overall	8-5
Conference	4-4
Home	5-2
Away	1-2
Neutral	2-1

2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/03/16	vs. UCLA
09/10/16	vs. Prairie View A&M
09/17/16	@ Auburn
09/24/16	@ Arkansas
10/01/16	@ South Carolina
10/08/16	vs. Tennessee
10/22/16	@ Alabama
10/29/16	vs. New Mexico State
11/05/16	@ Mississippi State
11/12/16	vs. Ole Miss
11/19/16	vs. UTSA
11/24/16	vs. LSU



2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/03/16 @ Texas A&M

09/10/16 vs. UNLV

09/17/16 @ Brigham Young

09/24/16 vs. Stanford

10/01/16 vs. Arizona

10/08/16 @ Arizona State

10/15/16 @ Washington State

10/22/16 vs. Utah

11/03/16 @ Colorado

11/12/16 vs. Oregon State

11/19/16 vs. USC

11/26/16 @ California

No. 24 UCLA will open the 2016 season on the road for the fifth time in seven seasons when it kicks off at Texas A&M on September 3. Fifth-year head coach Jim Mora owns a 37-16 overall record (17-6 in true road games) and welcomes back 12 (eight defensive / four offensive) starters from last year's 8-5 team which finished in a third-place tie in the Pac-12 South.

Pre-season All-American tackle Conor McDermott and sophomore quarterback Josh Rosen (3,668 passing yards and 23 touchdown passes in 2016) lead the offensive returners. Leading returning tackler Jayon Brown topped the team from his linebacker position with 93 stops and sixth place ranking in the Pac-12 with 7.8 tackles average per game. He is joined by pre-season All-American defensive tackle Eddie Vanderdoes. Three of the top four rushers from last year's team are back as well as eight of the top 10 tacklers from a season ago.



2015-2016 RECORD

Overall	8-5
Conference	5-4
Home	4-2
Away	4-2
Neutral	0-1

Prairie View A&M is coming off a very successful 8-2 schedule last year including a six game winning streak at the end of the season. In his first year as their head coach, Willie Simmons took a 5-5 team from 2015 and rejuvenated the program into an eight-win campaign. Redshirt Senior Trey Green returns for the Panthers at quarterback. The talented senior threw for over 2,600 yards and 21 touchdowns last year. Green's favorite target at wide out is KhaDarel, who played in every game last year and averaged almost 18 yards a catch. The Panthers will look to replace their biggest run threat from last year, Johnta Hebert, with some young talent in the backfield. Prairie View brings an active defense that puts a lot of pressure on the opponents quarterback. Last years team forced 19 turnovers while only giving up the ball 12 times.



2015-2016 RECORD

Overall	8-2
Conference	8-1
Home	4-0
Away	4-1
Neutral	0-1



2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/04/16 vs. Texas Southern

09/10/16 @ Texas A&M

09/17/16 @ Alabama A&M

09/24/16 @ Mississippi Valley State

10/01/16 vs. Grambling State

10/08/16 vs. Alabama State

10/22/16 @ Rice

10/29/16 @ Jackson State

11/05/16 vs. Alcorn State

11/12/16 vs. Southern

11/19/16 @ Arkansas-Pine Bluff

12/03/16 @ SWAC Championship



2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/03/16	vs. Clemson
09/10/16	vs. Arkansas State
09/17/16	vs. Texas A&M
09/24/16	vs. LSU
10/01/16	vs. Louisiana-Monroe
10/08/16	@ Mississippi State
10/22/16	vs. Arkansas
10/29/16	@ Ole Miss
11/05/16	vs. Vanderbilt
11/12/16	@ Georgia
11/19/16	vs. Alabama A&M
11/26/16	@ Alabama

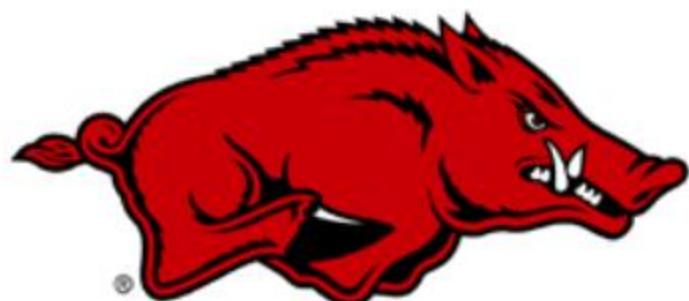
Texas A&M faces Auburn at Jordan-Hare Stadium on September 17, in a series where the visiting team has won the first four matchups since the Aggies joined the SEC. Coach Gus Malzahn's high-octane offense will feature new starters at all the skill positions behind a veteran offensive line. On defense, new coordinator Kevin Steele has veterans like Carl Lawson, Montravius Adams, Johnathan Ford, Joshua Holsey, Carlton Davis and Tré Williams to build around in putting together an aggressive, athletic lineup. Lou Groza Award finalist Daniel Carlson returns for his junior season as a preseason All-American at placekicker. The Tigers play eight home games at Jordan-hare Stadium this year, five in a row to start the season.



2015-2016 RECORD

Overall	7-6
Conference	2-6
Home	3-4
Away	2-2
Neutral	2-0

Bret Bielema definitely has his fingerprint on this Razorback team. He recruits big, physical players and wants to play smash-mouth football. He has some rebuilding to do this season and a new quarterback to install. He lost Brandon Allen to graduation but stayed in the family for his replacement. Junior Austin Allen, Brandon's little brother, will take over the reigns at quarterback. Kody Walker, who is a sixth year senior coming off foot surgery last spring, will look to lead the running game for the Hogs. Bielema's biggest task is restructuring his infamous offensive line that was the biggest in all of football. Fortunately for him he still has 6'10, 326 lb. Dan Skipper playing tackle. He has three holes to fill on the line from last year's squad. On defense, Arkansas returns nine starters including defensive linemen Deatrich Wise Jr and Jeremiah Ledbetter. They look to put a lot more pressure on SEC quarterbacks and generate more turnovers for the defense.



2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/03/16	vs. Louisiana Tech
09/10/16	@ TCU
09/17/16	vs. Texas State
09/24/16	vs. Texas A&M
10/01/16	vs. Alcorn State
10/08/16	vs. Alabama
10/15/16	vs. Ole Miss
10/22/16	@ Auburn
11/05/16	vs. Florida
11/12/16	vs. LSU
11/19/16	@ Mississippi State
11/26/16	@ Missouri

2015-2016 RECORD

Overall	8-5
Conference	5-3
Home	4-3
Away	3-1
Neutral	1-1

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2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/01/16	@ Vanderbilt
09/10/16	@ Mississippi State
09/17/16	vs. East Carolina
09/24/16	@ Kentucky
10/01/16	vs. Texas A&M
10/08/16	vs. Georgia
10/22/16	vs. Massachusetts
10/29/16	vs. Tennessee
11/05/16	vs. Missouri
11/12/16	@ Florida
11/19/16	vs. Western Carolina
11/26/16	@ Clemson

South Carolina had a disastrous season last year under the "Old Ball Coach" Steve Spurrier, recording a 3-9 tally. Now the Gamecocks have put their faith in Will Muschamp to resurrect the program. The team finished 11th in the SEC in offense last year and lost their best offensive player, Pharoh Cooper who left early to go to the NFL. Due to injuries, early enrollee freshman Brandon McIlwain came out of spring practice as the top available quarterback. The Gamecocks will rely on junior David Williams to lead the ground game. He served as a backup last year but should get plenty of reps this fall. Deebo Samuel was limited with an injury last year but definitely has the skill set to produce at wide receiver. The defense returns five starters from a squad that allowed six yards per play last year. Muschamp will have his hands full rebuilding the defense, which is his specialty.



2015-2016 RECORD

Overall	3-9
Conference	1-7
Home	2-4
Away	0-5
Neutral	1-0

Experts are high on the Vols as they enter the fourth year under head coach Butch Jones. It seems like his rebuilding job is complete and the pieces have come together for Tennessee to make a run at the College Football Playoffs. They return 18 starters from last year's squad that fell just short of winning the SEC East. The program is full of talent after three consecutive top 15 recruiting classes. The addition of new defensive coordinator Bob Shoop, who is a proven defensive mind, should make a huge difference on that side of the ball. Dual threat quarterback Josh Dobbs returns, and a loaded backfield led by junior Jalen Hurd makes the team's running game one of the best in the East. Cornerback Cameron Sutton decided to come back and not make himself available for the NFL Draft, which is huge for the Vols. Quarterbacks will avoid throwing his way and the team can count on him as the talented player has never missed a start in his college career.



2015-2016 RECORD

Overall	9-4
Conference	5-3
Home	5-2
Away	2-2
Neutral	2-0



2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/01/16	vs. Appalachian State
09/10/16	vs. Virginia Tech
09/17/16	vs. Ohio
09/24/16	vs. Florida
10/01/16	@ Georgia
10/08/16	@ Texas A&M
10/15/16	vs. Alabama
10/29/16	@ South Carolina
11/05/16	vs. Tennessee Tech
11/12/16	vs. Kentucky
11/19/16	vs. Missouri
11/26/16	@ Vanderbilt



2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/03/16	vs. USC
09/10/16	vs. Western Kentucky
09/17/16	@ Ole Miss
09/24/16	vs. Kent State
10/01/16	vs. Kentucky
10/08/16	@ Arkansas
10/15/16	@ Tennessee
10/22/16	vs. Texas A&M
11/05/16	@ LSU
11/12/16	vs. Mississippi State
11/19/16	vs. Chattanooga
11/26/16	vs. Auburn

Last year, Alabama lost the third game of the season in a six-point contest against Ole Miss. A lot of experts believed it was the end of the Tide's dominance and wrote them off as possible participants in the College Football Playoffs. Nick Saban got the team back on track and they wheeled off twelve straight wins in route to another National Championship. This year's squad still has all of the talent of previous years, and until someone knocks them off, they are still the favorite to win the SEC and compete for another National Title. The good news for their opponents is they won't have Heisman Trophy winner Derrick Henry in the backfield and they begin this season with a new quarterback. The bad news is the guys filling those rolls could be just as good. Tight end O.J. Howard (#88), defensive lineman Jonathan Allen (#93) and safety Eddie Jackson (#4) all turned down chances to go to the NFL and should be huge impact players for the Tide this fall.



2015-2016 RECORD

Overall	14-1
Conference	7-1
Home	6-1
Away	4-0
Neutral	4-0

ALABAMA ATHLETICS

The 2016 New Mexico State football team looks to build upon the foundation that head coach Doug Martin has been building since he began coaching the Aggies three years ago. NM State has a seasoned quarterback crew with senior Tyler Rogers and graduate transfer Tyler Matthews leading the pack. In the backfield, NM State is led by junior AP All-American running back Larry Rose III, who had back-to-back 1,000-yard rushing seasons as a freshman and sophomore. The offensive line returns three starters who helped Rose III amass 1,651 yards to break the NM State all-time single season record during the 2015 campaign. Defensively, the squad is led by junior linebacker Derek Ibekwe and junior defensive back Jacob Nwangwa, who led the team with 93 total tackles and 85 total tackles, respectively, during the 2015 season.



2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/03/16	@ UTEP
09/10/16	vs. New Mexico
09/17/16	@ Kentucky
09/24/16	@ Troy
10/01/16	vs. UL Lafayette
10/15/16	@ Idaho
10/22/16	vs. Georgia Southern
10/29/16	@ Texas A&M
11/12/16	@ Arkansas State
11/19/16	vs. Texas State
11/26/16	vs. Appalachian State
12/03/16	@ South Alabama

2015-2016 RECORD

Overall	3-9
Conference	3-5
Home	1-4
Away	2-5
Neutral	0-0

POLO ORTO, RON IRBY / NM ST ATHLETICS



Mississippi State will have to search for a new identity after losing the face of last year's program, Dak Prescott. He was the best player in the school's history and will be tough to replace. Dan Mullen will look to redshirt sophomore, Nick Fitzgerald to fill his shoes. As backup last year he saw limited action but did show signs he was ready for the challenge. State returns all of their running backs from last year including Brandon Holloway, Aeris Williams and Ashton Shumpert. The leading rusher for Mississippi State last year was Prescott. Look for Mullen to use multiple backs to ignite their rushing attack. Fred Ross returns for his senior season after last year's break out performance. He caught the second most passes in the SEC last year and has breakaway speed after he catches the ball. On the defense, Richie Brown, the Dogs leading tackler from last year, also will be returning for his senior year. Not only does he make plays, but also he is the leader on the field making sure everyone is on the same page.

2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/03/16	vs. South Alabama
09/10/16	vs. South Carolina
09/17/16	@ LSU
09/24/16	@ UMass
10/08/16	vs. Auburn
10/14/16	@ BYU
10/22/16	@ Kentucky
10/29/16	vs. Samford
11/05/16	vs. Texas A&M
11/12/16	@ Alabama
11/19/16	vs. Arkansas
11/26/16	@ Ole Miss



2015-2016 RECORD

Overall	9-4
Conference	4-4
Home	4-3
Away	4-1
Neutral	1-0

Fresh off a 10-win season and Sugar Bowl victory over Oklahoma State, Ole Miss enters the 2016 season with the SEC's top returning quarterback, senior Chad Kelly, and plenty of optimism. The Rebels, who finished top 10 in the polls last year, broke nearly every offensive record in program history and posted some of the best statistical numbers in SEC history – like 4,351 passing yards (fourth-most in SEC history) and 6,731 total yards (fifth-most in league history). Expect more of the same this year with Kelly throwing to a deep and talented group of receivers, even with the loss of star wideout Laquon Treadwell who was drafted in the first round of the NFL Draft. The Rebels' tenacious defense, led by defensive end Marquis Haynes off the edge and linebacker DeMarquis Gates in the middle, will try to help Ole Miss to more SEC victories like last year, when the team defeated Alabama, Auburn, LSU, Mississippi State, Texas A&M and Vanderbilt.



2015-2016 RECORD

Overall	10-3
Conference	6-2
Home	6-1
Away	3-2
Neutral	1-0

2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/05/16	@ Florida State
09/10/16	vs. Wofford
09/17/16	vs. Alabama
09/24/16	vs. Georgia
10/01/16	vs. Memphis
10/15/16	@ Arkansas
10/22/16	@ LSU
10/29/16	vs. Auburn
11/05/16	vs. Georgia Southern
11/12/16	@ Texas A&M
11/19/16	@ Vanderbilt
11/26/16	vs. Mississippi State



2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/03/16	vs. Alabama State
09/10/16	@ Colorado State
09/16/16	vs. Arizona State
09/24/16	@ Old Dominion
10/08/16	vs. Southern Miss
10/15/16	@ Rice
10/22/16	vs. UTEP
10/29/16	vs. North Texas
11/05/16	@ Middle Tennessee
11/12/16	@ Louisiana Tech
11/19/16	@ Texas A&M
11/26/16	vs. Charlotte

The Roadrunners start the season under the direction of new head coach Frank Wilson. They return 41 letter winners from last year's squad that posted a 3-9 record. The team has 14 starters from last year's club that have all had a chance to learn from Wilson since he took over on January 15th. Dalton Sturm and senior transfer Jared Johnson will battle during camp for the starting nod at quarterback. Sturm started seven games last year, throwing for 1,354 yards and 13 touchdowns. Jarveon Williams (#2) leads the running game as the talented senior became the program's first back to rush for over 1,000 yards last season. He scored eight touchdowns and had four 100-yard games. On the defensive side of the ball, safety Michael Egwuagu returns for his senior campaign. The preseason all-conference player had 62 tackles last year, with eight pass breakups and three interceptions. UTSA is starting the program's sixth year and posted seven wins in the last two years.



2015-2016 RECORD

Overall	3-9
Conference	3-5
Home	1-5
Away	2-4
Neutral	0-0

JEFF HUEHN / UTSA ATHLETICS

The Tigers began last year with low expectations from most experts until the team strung together seven wins and a number two ranking in the polls. The quick start had LSU fans thinking playoffs before the team rolled into Bryant-Denny Stadium to take on Alabama. A 30-16 loss started a three game skid and when the Aggies came to town on November 28th, rumors were rampant that Les Miles was coaching his last game. After the 19-7 victory over the Aggies, Miles was carried off the field on his player's shoulders and into the locker room where he was assured he still had a job. This year's squad has very high expectations. With the return of arguably the nation's best running back Leonard Fournette and a returning starter at QB, Brandon Harris. The Tigers look to battle for supremacy in the SEC West. They return 18 starters from a squad that went 9-3 last season. The defense is now under the direction of new defensive coordinator Dave Aranda.



2015-2016 RECORD

Overall	9-3
Conference	5-3
Home	6-1
Away	2-2
Neutral	1-0



2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/03/16	@ Wisconsin
09/10/16	vs. Jacksonville State
09/17/16	vs. Mississippi State
09/24/16	@ Auburn
10/01/16	vs. Missouri
10/08/16	@ Florida
10/15/16	vs. Southern Miss
10/22/16	vs. Ole Miss
11/05/16	vs. Alabama
11/12/16	@ Arkansas
11/19/16	vs. South Alabama
11/24/16	@ Texas A&M

LSU ATHLETICS



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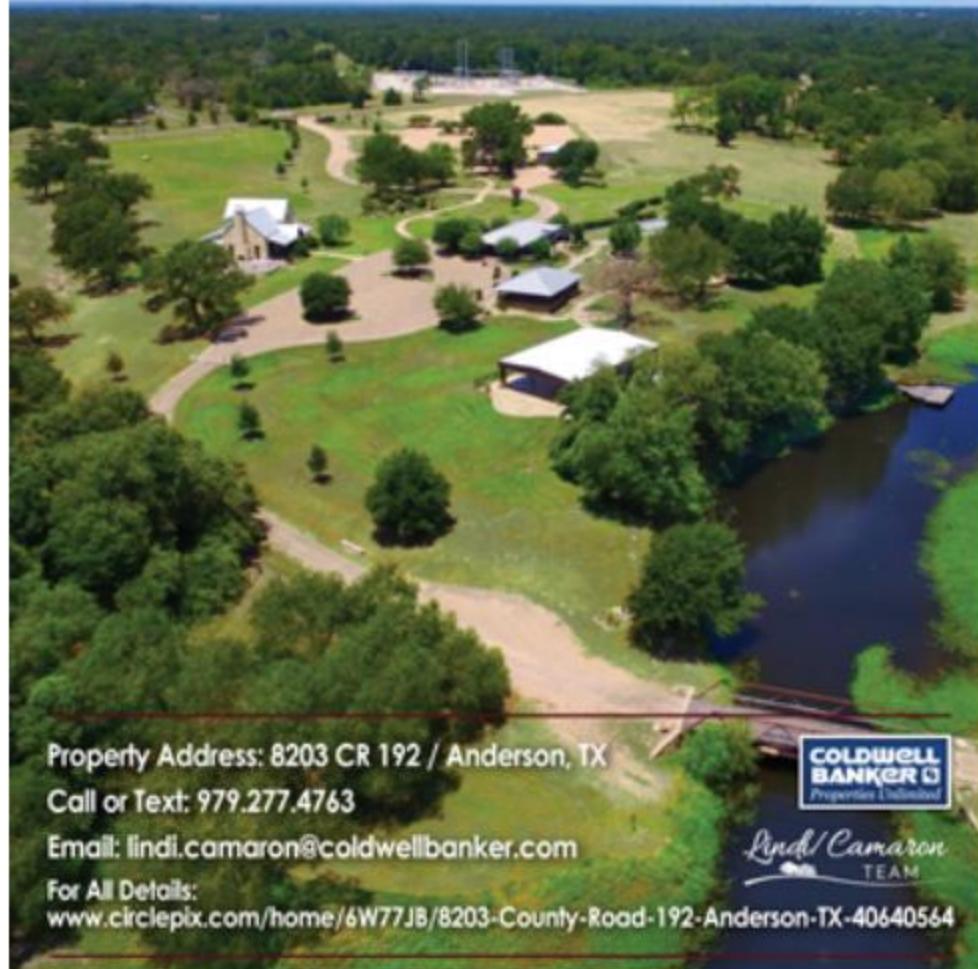
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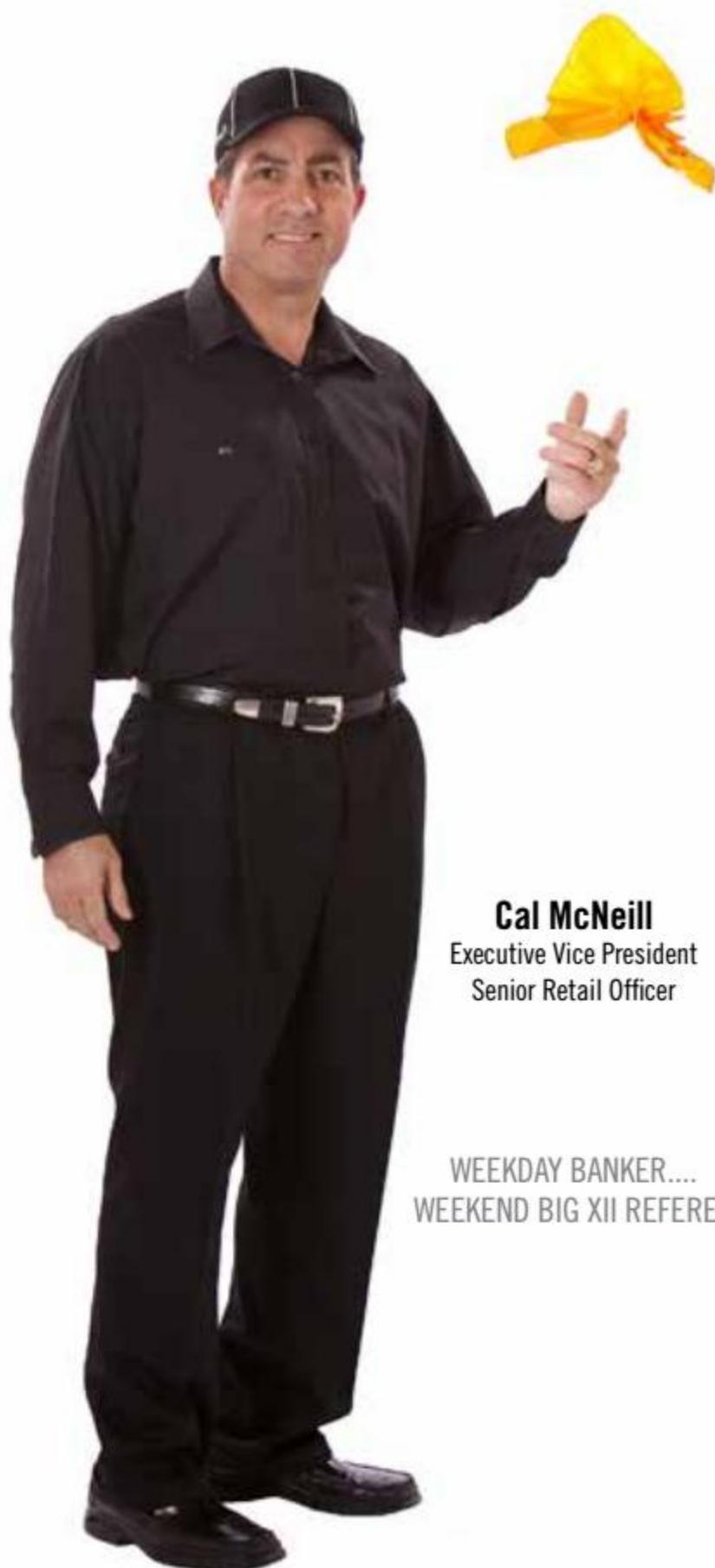
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Q&A with **JAMES WHITE**

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Not a lot was said about how hurt you were last year, how much did it affect your game?

It's frustrating and you have to learn how to bounce back. You know things happen for a reason and it's football and you know it kind of hit me a little bit.

What did you learn from that experience?

Take care of your body, get in the ice tub when you can, get a massage, stretch when you can, eat right. I've learned a lot of things from that.

So, do you feel 100 times better than you did last year?

200 times better. I feel great.

Are you ready to go out there tomorrow and play UCLA?

Yes Sir! I'm itching for it, and I'm excited.

There's a stable of running backs, are you trying to bring these younger guys along to make the whole crew better?

Yeah, for sure, but you know it helps that these guys understand the offense very well and they grasp everything very quickly. It makes my job a lot easier but whenever they need help when we watch film, I'm always there to give them a hand to give them whatever they need.

What is the biggest difference between the Spav offense and Mazzone offense?

More experience, I think and running the ball a little bit more. I'm very excited about that, and we are all excited about that as a group.

Does the way that Mazzone runs his offense make it easier for a running back to have a big game?

Yes, definitely! We have a quarterback that can pass around the ball and we have really good receivers. So, it's kind of hard to tell which way the ball is going, which helps us out a lot.

Can you tell me a little bit about Trevor Knight and what he's meant to the team since he arrived in the spring?

Since he has gotten here from a leadership standpoint, he has taken over. We needed that because he is an older guy. He has come in and with him it's been perfection. So, a lot of our 7 on 7 and team, everything is precise. So, he's a good dude, I love the dude.

I've noticed in practice, that if someone messes up, even in warm-ups the whole line starts again. Is it just the theme that we are going to do it right from warm up on?

Yes, because you know if you are not doing right then you are doing it wrong. That has kind of been our motto so far and that's what I think from a stand point that you have to give your all, and if you can't give your all in practice then you can't give your all in a game. We have been trying to have that beat that in our heads and just become more of a tight knit group and we are just ready to play football.

Do you have a goal for this season?

Stay healthy, play football and contribute as much as I can to our team.

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2015 - 2016 TEXAS A&M SPORT CLUBS ASSOCIATION

Texas A&M Sport Clubs Build Champions & Leaders

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Over the past few years, Aggieland Illustrated has enjoyed introducing our readers to some of the many sport clubs sponsored by the Texas A&M Sport Clubs Association. The Association started over forty years ago in 1974. Over the last four decades, sport clubs have won over 235 National Championships. We sat down with Sport Clubs Director Keith Joseph for an update on the organization.

We asked Joseph how things are going. "In the Sport Clubs program, our students and clubs have been very successful on the court and off the court the past few years," he replied. Based on the accolades and national titles the clubs have earned along the way, he told us he's not sure if there is another sport clubs program in the country with that kind of history. He credits all of the success to "the dedication of these students."

All of the clubs are student organizations run by student officers under the direction of Joseph and Jessica Konetski, who oversee the operations of the clubs. Last year over 3,000 students signed up to participate in the program, which was the most they have ever had. The number of clubs in the program continues to grow, with three new clubs this year: basketball, golf and competitive climbing. The addition of the new clubs brings the total of Texas A&M Sport Clubs to thirty-six. The wide range of clubs allows them to attract different students with different interests to generate more involvement from the student body.

Not only does participation in these clubs allow students to compete in the sport they love, but they also gain valuable experience in leadership, running the team, travel, and developing skills they will use after they leave school. Many of the clubs participate at the highest level of competition since there are not Division I sponsored sports for those events. Examples like fencing and archery were mentioned as the clubs that face the best in the world at the club level. Joseph told us that the 2012 Olympics women's archery team was comprised of three members, two of whom came from Texas A&M Sport Clubs.

Some of the clubs like soccer and volleyball attract students that have participated in the sport all their lives. But as Joseph mentioned, "A lot of sports aren't introduced to people at the high school or lower level, so there is a wide variety of skill level

in a lot of our clubs." Most of the clubs do have try-outs, but several clubs have an instructional side taught by coaches and experienced club members as well as a competitive side that competes at tournaments for titles. This allows students to develop, learn, and get better at their chosen sport. Each club has its competitive group, but there is also a part of the club that is dedicated to learning and improving.

Polo, for example, has a competitive team, comprised of four members that won the Men's National Championship last year. The polo club team is made up of fifty to sixty members that love to be around the horses and receive weekly instruction on learning the game while also getting the opportunity to work with the competitive team to improve their skills.

Texas A&M Sport Clubs will also be competing for the third year in the Aggies-Longhorn Challenge against the University of Texas Sport Clubs program, which the Aggies won last year. Twenty-nine of the thirty-six clubs compete over the course of the year and points are awarded for wins. At the end of the year, the school with the most points wins the challenge, receives the traveling trophy, and gets bragging rights for the next year.

The clubs also compete in a can food drive during the month of November. All food is donated to the Food for Families Food Drive. Last year the clubs donated over two tons of food to the Brazos Valley Food Bank.

With offices located inside the Student Recreation Center, the Texas A&M Sport Clubs Association aims to help students find the perfect club for them. They can provide students with all the information they need and direct them to the presidents of each club for even more information. The success of Texas A&M Sport Clubs over the last forty-plus years comes down to students that, according to Joseph, "work their tails off" to make these clubs successful.

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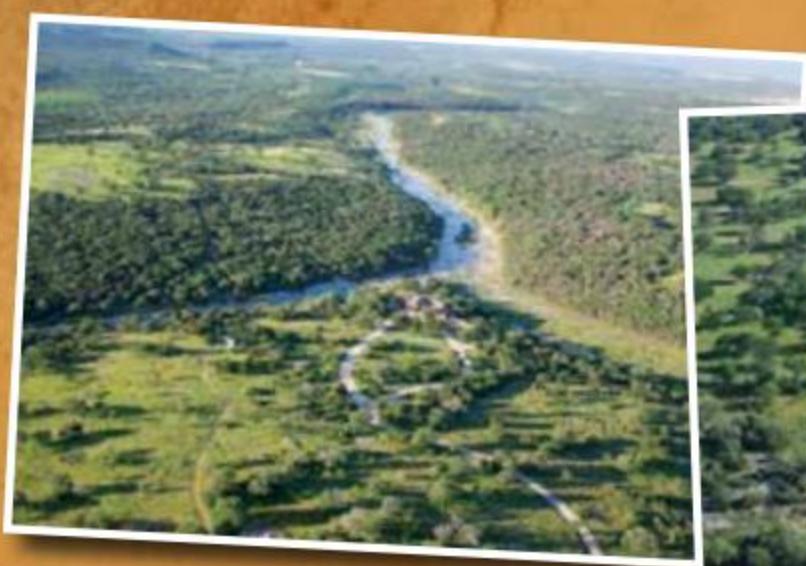


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